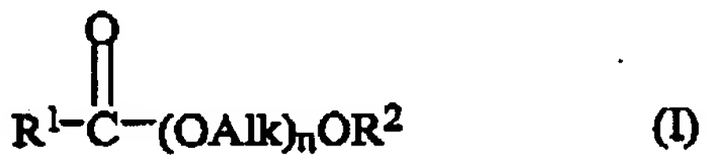
In the Claims:

Please amend claims 14-15 and 18-23, without prejudice, in accordance with the following complete listing of all claims ever presented. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (**Currently amended**): A method of rinsing machine-washed tableware materials, said method comprising:

(a) providing a rinse agent comprising an alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester of the general formula (I):



$$R^1-C(=O)-(OAlk)_nOR^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein $R^1C(O)$ represents an aliphatic acyl group having from 8 to 18 carbon atoms, each AlkO independently represents an alkoxylate selected from the group consisting of CH_2CH_2O, $CHCH_3CH_2O$ and CH_2CHCH_3O, n is a number of from 1 to 20, and R^2 represents an aliphatic alkyl group; and

(b) contacting a tableware material surface with the rinse agent during machine washing of the tableware material surface.

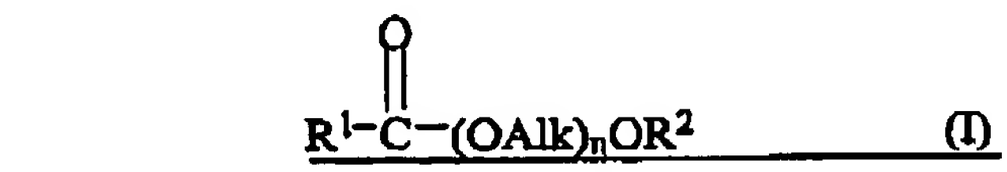
Claim 15 (**Currently amended**): The method according to claim 14, wherein ~~$R^1C(O)$ represents an aliphatic acyl group having from 8 to 18 carbon atoms,~~ each AlkO represents a CH_2CH_2O, R^2 represents a methyl group, and n is a number of from 5 to 15.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is prepared by reacting a carboxylic acid and an alkylene oxide in the presence of calcined hydrotalcite.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 18 (**Currently amended**): ~~The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises~~ A method of rinsing machine-washed tableware materials, said method comprising:

(a) providing a rinse agent comprising (i) an alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester of the general formula (I):



$$R^1-C(=O)-(OAlk)_nOR^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein $R^1C(O)$ represents an aliphatic acyl group, each AlkO independently represents an alkoxylate selected from the group consisting of CH_2CH_2O, $CHCH_3CH_2O$ and CH_2CHCH_3O, n is a number of from 1 to 20, and R^2 represents an aliphatic alkyl group and (ii) an additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alk(en)yl oligoglycosides, fatty acid-N-alkyl glucamides, hydroxy mixed ethers, mixed ethers, and mixtures thereof; and

(b) contacting a tableware material surface with the rinse agent during machine washing of the tableware material surface.

Claim 19 (**Currently amended**): The method according to claim 18~~14~~, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant ~~rinse agent further~~ comprises an alk(en)yl oligoglycoside of the general formula (II):

$$R^3O-[G]_p \qquad (II)$$

wherein R^3 represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 4 to 22 carbon atoms, each G independently represents a sugar unit containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p represents a number of from 1 to 10.

Claim 20 **(Currently amended)**: The method according to claim 18~~14~~, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant ~~rinse agent further~~ comprises a fatty acid-N-alkyl polyhydroxy alkylamide of the general formula (III):

$$R^5CO-N(R^4)-[Z] \qquad (III)$$

wherein R^5CO represents an aliphatic acyl group having from 6 to 22 carbon atoms, R^4 represents an alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and [Z] represents a linear or branched polyhydroxyalkyl group having from 3 to 12 carbon atoms and from 3 to 10 hydroxyl groups.

Claim 21 **(Currently amended)**: The method according to claim 18~~14~~, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant ~~rinse agent further~~ comprises a fatty alcohol poly(alkylene)glycol ether of the general formula (V):

$$R^6O(CH_2CH_2O)_p[MO]_mH \qquad (V)$$

wherein R^6 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, each MO independently represents an alkoxide selected from the group consisting of propylene oxide and butylene oxide, p is a number of from 1 to 15 and m is a number of from 0 to 10.

Claim 22 **(Currently amended)**: The method according to claim 18~~14~~, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant ~~rinse agent further~~ comprises a fatty alcohol polyalkylene glycol ether of the general formula (VI):

$$R^7O[CH_2(CH_3)CHO]_r(CH_2CH_2O)_qH \qquad (VI)$$

wherein R^7 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, r is a number of from 1 to 10 and q is a number of from 0 to 15.

Claim 23 **(Currently amended)**: The method according to claim 18~~14~~, wherein the additional nonionic surfactant ~~rinse agent further~~ comprises a hydroxy mixed ether of the general formula (VII):

$$R^8O[CH_2CH(CH_3)O]_x(CH_2CHR^9O)_y[CH_2CH(OH)R^{10}]_z \qquad \text{(VII)}$$

wherein R^8 represents an alk(en)yl group having from 4 to 18 carbon atoms, each R^9 independently represents a hydrogen or a methyl or ethyl group, each R^{10} independently represents an alkyl group having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms, x is a number of from 0 to 10, y is a number of from 1 to 30 and z is the number 1.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester and the additional nonionic surfactant are present in the rinse agent in a ratio by weight of from 10:90 to 80:20.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

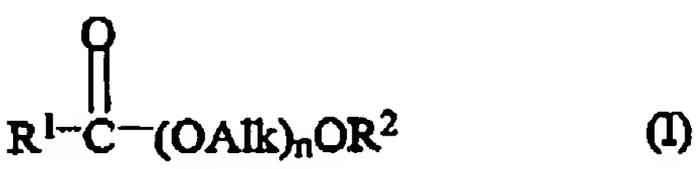
Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the rinse agent further comprises an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 29, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): A rinsing agent comprising:

(a) an alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester of the general formula (I):



$$R^1-C(=O)-(OAlk)_nOR^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein $R^1C(O)$ represents an aliphatic acyl group, each AlkO independently represents an alkoxylate selected from the group consisting of CH_2CH_2O, $CHCH_3CH_2O$ and CH_2CHCH_3O, n is a number of from 1 to 20, and R^2 represents an aliphatic alkyl group; and

(b) an acid selected from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 31, further comprising an additional nonionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol polyglycol ethers, alk(en)yl oligoglycosides, fatty acid-N-alkyl glucamides, hydroxy mixed ethers, mixed ethers, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 31, further comprising a solubilizer.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 31, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 31, wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The rinsing agent according to claim 32, further comprising a solubilizer, wherein the alkoxylated carboxylic acid ester is present in the rinse agent in an amount of from 0.5 to 40% by weight, and wherein the acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 50% by weight.